

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-31, 33, 34, 49-60, 72-75, and 78-87 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-19, 21, 22, 28, 50-52, 55, 57-60, and 79-84 have been amended. More specifically, claims 9, 57, and 80 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 57, and 80 were further amended to correct the antecedent basis of certain features of these claims without changing the scope of the claims. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-19, 21, 22, 28, 50-52, 55, 58-60, 79, and 81-84 have been amended solely to change the dependencies of these claims and/or correct the antecedent basis of certain features of these claims. Claims 1, 3, 6, 23-27, 29-31, 33, 34, 49, 56, 72-75, 78, and 85-87 have been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections. As such, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, or other application. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 5, 7-19, 21, 22, 28, 50-55, 57-60, and 79-84 remain pending in the application.

In the non-final Office Action mailed January 12, 2006, claims 1-19, 21-31, 33, 34, 49-60, 72-75, and 78-87 were rejected, and claims 9 and 57 were objected to. More specifically, the status of the claims in light of the January 12 Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 23, 28, 29, 31, 49, 50, 56, 58, 72-74, 78, 82, 83, 85, and 87 stand objected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,036,579 to Cook et al. ("Cook");

(B) Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24-27, 30, 33, 34, 51-55, 59, 60, 75, 79-81, 84, and 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook; and

(C) Claims 9 and 57 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

A. Response to the Section 102 Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 23, 28, 29, 31, 49, 50, 56, 58, 72-74, 78, 82, 83, 85, and 87

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 23, 28, 29, 31, 49, 50, 56, 58, 72-74, 78, 82, 83, 85, and 87 stand objected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Cook. Claims 1, 3, 6, 23,

29, 31, 49, 56, 72-74, 78, 85, and 87 have been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 4, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, and 28 have been amended to depend from base claim 9 and claims 50 and 58 have been amended to depend from base claim 57. As discussed below, claims 9 and 57 have been rewritten in independent form and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 4, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 28, 50, and 58 are allowable as depending from allowable claims 9 and 57, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 4, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 28, 50, and 58 should be withdrawn.

Claims 82 and 83 have been amended to depend from claim 80. As discussed below, claim 80 has also been rewritten in independent form and is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 82 and 83 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 80, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 82 and 83 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 103 Rejection of Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24-27, 30, 33, 34, 51-55, 59, 60, 75, 79-81, 84, and 86

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24-27, 30, 33, 34, 51-55, 59, 60, 75, 79-81, 84, and 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook. Claims 24-27, 30, 33, 34, 75, and 86 have been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, and 22 have been amended to depend from base claim 9 and claims 51-55, 59, and 60 have been amended to depend from base claim 57. As discussed below, claims 9 and 57 have been rewritten in independent form and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 51-55, 59, and 60 are allowable as depending from allowable claims 9 and 57, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection of claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 51-55, 59, and 60 should be withdrawn.

As discussed below, claim 80 has been rewritten in independent form and is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 80 should be withdrawn. Claims 79, 81, and 84 have been amended to depend from base claim 80. Accordingly, claims 79, 81, and 84 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 80, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection of claims 79, 81, and 84 should be withdrawn.

C. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 57 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 9 and 57 have been rewritten in the stated form and, accordingly, are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 80 has also been rewritten in independent form. Claim 80 includes several features generally similar to allowable claims 9 and 57 (e.g., selecting a substrate material to transmit a selected radiation, attaching the substrate material to a second surface of the planarizing pad material, and exposing the second surface to the selected radiation). Accordingly, claim 80 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 9 and 57 are allowable, and for the additional features of this independent claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,

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